(b) the basis on which the unit run canteens demand the items;

(c) the names of the items delisted in the Canteen Stores Department during the above period;

(d) the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of bills pending with the CSD for payment and since when these are pending;

(f) the reasons for the delayed payments; and

(g) the basis to arrive at a decision as to how much discount a particular supplier/manufacturer should give to the CSD manufacture-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) During the last 12 months, a total of 344 consumer & household items were introduced and 222 items were deleted from Canteen Stores Department (CSD) inventory range. The introduction and deletion of products is a continuous exercise in CSD to keep its products range in league with the demand of the troops. The introduction/deletion has been carried out in several items such as bicycle, electronic appliances, shaving products, cornflakes, matchbox, cars, sunglasses, water filter, battery and torches, hair oil, bed covers, watches, toilet soaps, ceiling fan, sewing machine, biscuits, cutlery, candles, shoes, coffee, deodrant, note books, chywanprash, cosmetics, towels, vests, suitcase, tooth paste, & cigarettes etc.

Unit Run Canteens demand items based on the sale potential among the troops.

(e) and (f) As per the existing terms and conditions of CSD, bills become due for payment 30 days after the goods are received and taken on charge at Area Depots. Bills are paid promptly by due date to suppliers. No bills, without any discrepancy, are pending beyond the due date.

(g) The basis for CSD to arrive at the discounts to be obtained from the manufacturers/supplier depends on the following factors;

(i) First point sales from manufacturer's end and discount thereof to trade.

(ii) Terms of delivery i.e. F.O.R Destination or supply at mother depot at Mumbai.

(iii) Retail price of the product in the civil market.

(iv) Price and discount structure of functional equivalents existing in CSD.

*[Translation]*

**Supply of Newspapers to Officers in CWC**

884. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government bear the expenditure incurred on the supply of newspapers to all the gazetted officers of Government of India;

(b) if so, whether officers of Group B in the Central Water Commission have been deprived of this facility by the Chairman of the CWC; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent non-compliance of Government rules and to penalise the erring officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) No, Sir. There are administrative guidelines of the Government for reimbursement of cost of Newspapers to Gazetted Officers of the Government of India.

(b) No such decision has been taken.

(c) Does not arise.

**Level of Underground Water**

885. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has expressed its concern on the steep fall in the level of underground water in the country and has constituted a committee of Central Underground Water Board to check indiscriminate use of underground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Keeping in view the decline in the level of ground water in various parts of the country, the Honourable Supreme Court of India passed an order on 10th December, 1996 directing the Central Government to constitute the Central Ground Water Board as an Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(c) In compliance of the directions of the Honourable Supreme Court, the Central Government (Ministry of Environment & Forests) has constituted the Central Ground Water Board as an Authority by notification issued on 14th Jan. 1997.

**Excess Traffic on Roads**

886. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of road traffic on National Highways in total percentage of road traffic in the country;

(b) whether the Government are aware that in the 1,62,000 kms. of State and National Highways a big portion *i.e.* 64% in one lane only whereas a small portion 2% is four lane and remaining portion is two lane; and

(c) it so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for tackling the problem of excess traffic on roads in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) National Highways carry about 40% of the total traffic in the country.

(b) The Central Government is primarily concerned with the development of National Highways only. The development of other roads falls within the purview of respective State Governments. National Highways totalling a length of 34,608 Km., comprises 78% of two lane sections, 20% single lane sections and 2% four lane sections.

(c) To tackle the problem of excess traffic, the National Highways are being widened in phases subject to the availability of funds.

*[English]*

**Return of Artefacts**

887. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Government have made any move for return of the large number of Indian artefacts including Kohinoor taken by the British from India during their reign over the country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the U.K. Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Sankosh River Project of W.B**

888. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Sankosh River Project of West Bengal is being included in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas of tea-gardens, forests and agriculture land involved in the project; and

(d) the details of land proposed to be acquired and the total number of persons likely to be displaced due to Sankosh Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) The Sankosh Multipurpose Project would be taken up for implementation in the IX Plan as soon as it is finalised.

(c) and (d) As per the Environmental Impact Assessment studies carried out by Water and Power Consultancy Services Ltd., (WAPCOS) recently, the total land needs to be acquired for the canal portion of Sankosh Project in India is 2574 ha. The detailed break up of land to be acquired are:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | Tea Garden (ha.) | 936.18 |
| (ii) | Forest (ha.) | 1145.16 |
| (iii) | Agriculture (ha.) | 342.52 |
| (iv) | Fallow land and land not available for cultivation (ha.) | 150.17 |
| | Total | 2574.03 |

The total number of affected persons are about 21500 in West Bengal.

**Setting up of Sub-regional Airline**

889. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have agreed to set up a sub-regional Airline to be jointly run with Thailand, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh; and